

ITC Tank Fire Transition Outline

Incident Overview:

On March 17, 2019, an above ground storage tank containing Naphtha, caught fire at the Intercontinental Terminal Company (ITC), LLC facility in Deer Park Texas. The ITC facility consists of 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks containing petroleum products including Naphtha, Xylene, Toluene, Gasoline Blendstock, and Base Oil. Eleven of the 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks on site were involved in the fire, resulting in the release of contaminants into the atmosphere, as well discharging the contents of the tanks to drainage pathways. Firefighting water and foam potentially containing petroleum products were released from an outfall due to accumulation of water from firefighting efforts. Various firefighting organizations assisted in putting out the fire utilizing a variety of firefighting foams.

A partial breach of the tank farm containment wall on the northeast side near Tank 80-7 occurred at approximately 12:00 pm on March 22, 2019, to the ditched area and into Tucker Bayou. Additional boom was placed along the ditch leading to Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou (Houston Ship Channel).

At approximately 3:40 pm on March 22, 2019, three tanks reignited. The fire spread from the containment area through the breached containment wall into the ditch along Tidal Road. Foam was applied to the tanks and the ditch to extinguish the fire.

During and after the fire and the breach of the secondary containment, several readings of benzene above 1.0 ppm were detected (highest was 16.5 near National Tank Services) by the various entities conducting air monitoring through the afternoon and night. These readings were located along the ship channel.

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) Captain of the Port is continuing the controlled open for the Ship Channel on March 26, 2019, with traffic during the daytime only. Decontamination vessels are being positioned to help ships that may have residue on the hulls.

Due to the initial fires and subsequent releases, shelters in place have occurred throughout the week of March 17, 2019.

Response Activities:

Tank Farm:

Hand held air monitoring, TAGA bus, and ASPECT plane are currently being used to monitor the air during the removal of the remaining product from the tanks in the tank

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farm. EPA is also conducting surface water sampling each day while there is a continuous threat of a significant release from the tank farm. When the tanks have been left with only a residual amount, the risk of a large catastrophic fire, high levels of hazardous vapors and a substantial offsite discharge are significantly diminished. It is at this point that EPA will be able to transition the oversight and direction of activities at the tank farm over to the State of Texas.

The current projection clearing the material from the tanks in the tank farm is next Tuesday, April 2nd.

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Product Recovery from the Water:

The water runoff from fighting the tank farm fire and the disastrous failure of the secondary containment discharged tens of thousands of barrels of material into the Tucker Bayou which empties into the Houston Ship Channel. The responses' current activities involve collecting, recovering and disposing of the material from the surface water. EPA has developed an Interagency Agreement with the USCG to assist in this effort. If the product recovery operations extend beyond the transition of the Tank Farm operations, EPA will transfer Federal On-Scene Coordinator authority for this incident to the USCG to complete the water activities.

The current projection for completing the collection, recovery and disposal of the material from the surface water is (this is a Matt T. and Adam call, but the IC felt like mid-next week, so approximately April 4th or 5th).

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